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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 9337-83
28 December 1983

AH. NIC 9216-83

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT: Tuesday's NSC on Zhao Ziyang's Visit

Shultz has recommended three preparatory meetings to the President. The captioned NSC is the first. Weinberger (military sales and exchanges), Regan (ADB, Joint Economic Commission, tax treaty), Baldrige (countervailing duties, technology transfer problems), Block (grain agreement), Hodel (oil and coal extraction and trade), Brock (trade restrictions) will each make three-minute presentations. Shultz will start off with an overview of the relationship.

For the second meeting, Shultz is recommending a much smaller group; the subject is US policy on Taiwan and general handling of China. The third meeting is a briefing session which I presume would include Shultz, Wolfowitz, and Seegar. The President is expected to attend all three meetings.

I can brief you before the NSC on the issues described above that the various Cabinet Secretaries are expected to raise. Few of them have much to do with intelligence. TABS A and D attached will refresh your memory on larger China issues; TAB B is in the same vein but you have already seen the draft.

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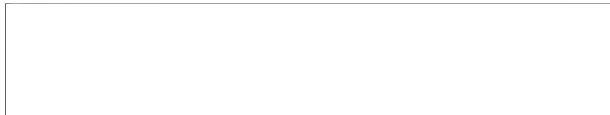
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Comment: My view of the Zhao visit is stated in my paper shown at TAB B. In sum, the Chinese need a stable US relationship for foreign policy and domestic political reasons. In this situation, the US should handle Zhao with a friendly, but firm hand; there is nothing on which we need to "give," no unearned bonuses needed for him to take back to Beijing. Unfortunately, the schedule arranged for Zhao already plays up his visit more than is necessary. Whereas Thatcher or Kohl or Trudeau would be lucky to see the President twice, Zhao will see him once alone, once in plenary, once at a State banquet and once again at a Cabinet breakfast. At least five Cabinet Secretaries plan to call on Zhao in Washington. And we have permitted Zhao to begin his visit with a speech at the East-West Center in Honolulu where he may take the opportunity to go public with his major themes before explaining them to Washington. Much of this is intended to assure that President Reagan receives an equally warm welcome in Beijing in April. Don't count on it. Already the Chinese have informed us that President Reagan's counterpart to Zhao's scheduled separate interviews with all three US TV networks is a single video-taped interview on Chinese government television. In short, we have been generous with the Chinese and Zhao and should stop while we are still ahead (if we are).



David D. Gries

Attachments:
as stated above



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